



MEDIA RELEASE

Local 6th Grade Student Honored by Fire Chief Andrew DiMizio

SANTA BARBARA, CA – March 21, 2012

On January 4, 2012, KEYT ran the story of Marissa Huerta who alerted her parents to a fire near their home on New Year's Eve 2011. When interviewed, Marissa said that when she heard and smelled the smoke she acted quickly to alert her parents. Ms. Huerta said that she remembered the fire safety tips she learned when she was in third grade and went through the City of Santa Barbara Fire Safety House Program.

Marissa is now in sixth grade and ready to graduate from elementary school, but not without the acknowledgement of the City of Santa Barbara Fire Department. Today, the Fire Safety House was scheduled for McKinley School so the City Fire Chief, Andrew DiMizio, made a surprise visit to the school to honor the student. The Fire Chief presented Marissa with a certificate and a City of Santa Barbara Fire Department Blanket that has the Fire Department patch on it. The Chief DiMizio stated that the Fire Blankets are rarely given out, except for very special acknowledgements. The Chief thanked Marissa for a job well done and was proud of how she had taken what she had learned and used it to help her family.

This year the Fire Safety House Program will visit eleven different schools within the City of Santa Barbara. Over 500 third graders will go through the hands on training. Originally funded by a grant from the Santa Barbara Foundation in 1998, the Fire Safety House program has taught fire safety skills to over 5,000 Santa Barbara School District students.

Pictured left to right is Fire Chief Andrew DiMizio, Marissa Huerta, Firefighters Mike de Ponce, Spencer Simonds, and Jack Franklin.

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